GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3918
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
ORPHANED AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children were orphaned and rendered destitute during the Earthquake and the recent communal carnage in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of children rendered destitute/orphaned;

(c) whether any scheme has been launched for their adoption by desirous issueless couples and others; and

(d) if so, the number of them adopted so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (d) As per the information received from the Government of Gujarat, 400 orphans and destitute children , affected by the earthquake had been identified. The Government of Gujarat took steps to rehabilitate these children with their relatives as far as possible. Adoption of these children has been taken up only in cases where there are no surviving relatives. The Ministry also provided grants to organizations such as Child Relief and You, Indian Council of Child Welfare and Child Line India Foundation for setting up of relief measures. The funds have been released under the schemes such as the General Grant in-Aid Programme for assistance in the field of Social Defence and An Integrated Programme for Street Children. The Ministry has also sanctioned a grant in aid of Rs.2.02 crore to Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) of Ahmedabad,Gujarat for implementation of a project called Rehabilitation Package for the Riot Hit Children of Gujarat. A sum of Rs. 60 lakhs has already been released to SEWA in two installments of Rs.30 lakhs each for the above project.